

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 183

July 17, 1997, 10:00 am
Page S-7629 Temp. Record

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS/Aid and Money to Cuba

SUBJECT: Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for FY 1998 . . . S. 955.
Bingaman amendment No. 896.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 38-61

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 955, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1998, will provide \$13.244 billion in foreign assistance, and will make \$3.521 billion available to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the new arrangements for borrowing (NAB; this amount will not be scored as an outlay or as increasing the deficit because the United States will receive in exchange another monetary asset in the form of a liquid, interest-bearing claim on the IMF, which will be backed by the IMF's gold reserves).

The Bingaman amendment would allow residents of the United States to send up to \$200 per month to family members in Cuba, and it would allow them to travel to Cuba without limitation, for periods not to exceed 30 days for each trip, to attend family members' funerals or to visit relatives when they had medical emergencies. The amendment would also permit the United States Government to participate in humanitarian relief efforts, following natural disasters in Cuba, of multilateral organizations to which the United States belonged.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The Bingaman amendment, in three extremely modest ways, would improve United States-Cuban relations, and it would do so without threatening the national security interests of the United States. The amendment would improve personal contacts between Cubans and Americans by allowing Americans to send small sums to family members in Cuba, and to visit Cuba for funerals or when a relative was ill. It would also allow the United States to give humanitarian disaster relief to Cuba through multilateral organizations. These very limited actions would not violate the spirit of the economic embargo that we have had in place for 35 years. However,

(See other side)

YEAS (38)			NAYS (61)			NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (5 or 9%)	Democrats (33 or 73%)		Republicans (49 or 91%)	Democrats (12 or 27%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (0)
Bond	Akaka	Inouye	Abraham	Hutchinson	Bryan	Burns- ²	
Chafee	Baucus	Johnson	Allard	Hutchison	Ford		
Jeffords	Biden	Kennedy	Ashcroft	Inhofe	Glenn		
Lugar	Bingaman	Kerrey	Bennett	Kempthorne	Graham		
Roberts	Boxer	Kerry	Brownback	Kyl	Hollings		
	Breaux	Landrieu	Campbell	Lott	Kohl		
	Bumpers	Lautenberg	Coats	Mack	Lieberman		
	Byrd	Leahy	Cochran	McCain	Mikulski		
	Cleland	Levin	Collins	McConnell	Reid		
	Conrad	Moseley-Braun	Coverdell	Murkowski	Robb		
	Daschle	Moynihan	Craig	Nickles	Rockefeller		
	Dodd	Murray	D'Amato	Roth	Torricelli		
	Dorgan	Reed	DeWine	Santorum			
	Durbin	Sarbanes	Domenici	Sessions			
	Feingold	Wellstone	Enzi	Shelby			
	Feinstein	Wyden	Faircloth	Smith, Bob			
	Harkin		Frist	Smith, Gordon			
			Gorton	Snowe			
			Gramm	Specter			
			Grams	Stevens			
			Grassley	Thomas			
			Gregg	Thompson			
			Hagel	Thurmond			
			Hatch	Warner			
			Helms				

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

we believe that it may be time to reexamine the wisdom of the embargo. In our opinion, Castro has been able to build support for himself by galvanizing Cuban sentiment against the United States because of the sanctions. Castro could not use the provisions of the Bingaman amendment to build support for himself; in fact, we think that the more contacts Cubans have with the United States the less they will favor continued rule by Castro. The Bingaman amendment builds slightly on current law, which already allows one visit per year for medical emergencies or funerals, and which already allows private humanitarian assistance to be given to Cuba. This amendment would move U.S. policy in the right direction. We urge Senators to vote in its favor.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

Passage of this amendment would be contrary to our policy toward Cuba, which is designed to undermine the already weakened Castro and lead to a free and open democracy. In February of 1996, when the Cuban Air Force shot down a civilian aircraft in the Florida straits, murdering Americans, Members of Congress and the President were united in believing that sanctions on Cuba needed to be tightened. There have been no signs of democratization in Cuba since this egregious act; therefore our policy should not be changed. The Bingaman amendment should be rejected.